



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
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DECEMBER 15, 2005
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEFENDANT SENTENCED TO 24 YEARS FOR METH CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two co-defendants, one of them a Lee's Summit, Mo., man, were sentenced in federal court today for their roles in a conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine.

Jeffery William Strain, 49, address unknown, and **William R. Barber**, 49, of Lee's Summit, were sentenced in separate appearances before U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this morning. **Strain** was sentenced to 24 years and four months in federal prison without parole. **Barber** was sentenced to five years in federal prison without parole.

On June 21, 2005, **Strain** pleaded guilty to participating in a conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine and to manufacturing methamphetamine. **Strain** admitted that he and **Barber** conspired to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between Jan. 1, 2000, and Jan. 1, 2004. **Strain** also admitted that he manufactured 50 grams or more of methamphetamine during that time frame. **Strain** conspired with a number of people who provided him with pills and a place to cook methamphetamine, Graves said. The amount of methamphetamine that was manufactured, coupled with the purity of the methamphetamine, resulted in at least 1.5 kilograms of actual methamphetamine being manufactured.

On June 22, 2005, **Barber** pleaded guilty to participating in the conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine. **Barber** admitted that he provided **Strain** with pills to use to manufacture methamphetamine.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Bruce Rhoades and W. Brent Powell. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the North Missouri Interagency Team Response Operation (NITRO), the Jackson County Drug Task Force and the North Central Missouri Drug Task Force.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html